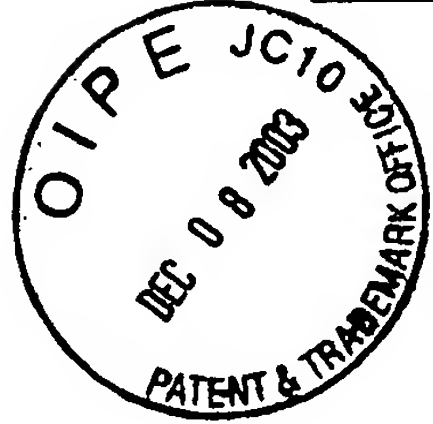


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: DANT
Serial No.: 10/663,212
Filed: SEPTEMBER 15, 2003
Due Date: DECEMBER 15, 2003
Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SPINAL DISTRACTION USING A FLIP-UP PORTAL

Examiner: UNKNOWN
Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN
Docket: 6683.70USU1



CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 4, 2003.

By:
Name:

Carla J. Mauch
CARLA J. MAUCH

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

23552

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

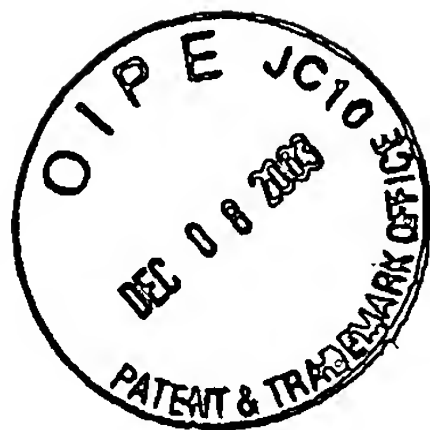
- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement, Form 1449, 1 Reference(s)
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903, Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
612.332.5300

By:

Karen A. Fitzsimmons
Name: Karen A. Fitzsimmons
Reg. No.: 50,470
KFitzsimmons:PLSpmc



S/N 10/663,212

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	DANT	Examiner:	UNKNOWN
Serial No.:	10/663,212	Group Art Unit:	UNKNOWN
Filed:	SEPTEMBER 15, 2003	Docket No.:	6683.70USU1
Title:	APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR SPINAL DISTRACTION USING A FLIP-UP PORTAL		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 4, 2003.

By:

Name:

Carla J. March
CARLA J. MARCH

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b))

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted within three months of the filing date of the above-identified application, which is not an application under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d). Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked

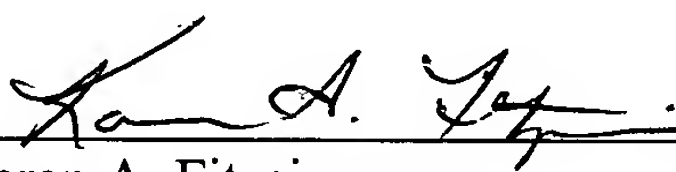
as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.

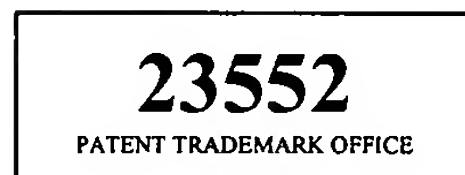
Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: Dec. 3, 2003



Karen A. Fitzsimmons
Reg. No. 50,470
KAF:PLSpmc



FORM 1449a INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: 6683.70USU1	Application Number: 10/663,212
	Applicant: DANT	
	Filing Date: 09/15/2003	Group Art Unit: UNKNOWN

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	2002/0107519 A1	08/08/2002	Dixon et al.			

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)		

23552 PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	